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Message Text

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53
ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 L-02 ABF-01 OMB-01

/034 W
---------- 088763
R 251230Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3487

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 2615

ATTENTION EB/OT/STA AND IO/EX/FMC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD BE
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL BUREAU FOR THE PUBLICATION OF CUSTOMS TARIFFS

REF: A) STATE 19483 B) STATE 58547 C) BRUSSELS A-53, 3/14/75 D) BRUSSELS A-260, 12/4/74; E) STATE A-8154, 10/25/74

1. IBPCT HAS INFORMALLY PROVIDED A "NOTE" RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL (A), TO JUSTIFY AN INCREASE IN NATIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS. THE SUBSTANCE OF THE NOTE IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. INCREASE WAS CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

1. UNITED STATES SUBSCRIPTION ESTABLISHED BY PROTOCOL OF 16 DEC. 1949: 432,745 BF.

2. DOUBLING OF THAT SUBSCRIPTION AS FROM 1 APRIL 1965 IN PURSUANCE OF DECISION BY MEMBER-STATES: 865,490 BF.

3. THIS LAST SUBSCRIPTION WAS INCREASED ON TWO OCCASIONS, I.E.: BY 7.5 PERCENT ON 1 APRIL 1971 AND BY 15 PERCENT ON 1 APRIL 1972. THE MOST RECENT SUBSCRIPTION TO BE PAID BY THE US THEREFORE AMOUNTED TO 865,490 BF PLUS 15 PERCENT, EQUALLING 995,315 BF.

4. PRESENT PROPOSAL, AIMED AT INCREASING BY 30 PERCENT THE SUBSCRIPTION RATE APPLIED FROM 1 APRIL 1965 WOULD BRING THE US SUBSCRIPTION TO 865,490 BF PLUS 30 PERCENT, EQUALLING 1,125,140 BF, AN INCREASE OF 129,825 BF OVER WHAT

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US PRESENTLY PAYS.

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B. BUDGET OF IBPCT DERIVES 90 PERCENT OF ITS REVENUE FROM MEMBER-STATE SUBSCRIPTIONS. ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF REVENUE COMES FROM OTHER SOURCES:

-- INTEREST ON " RESERVE FUND" INSTITUTED BY ARTICLE 10 OF REGULATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING CONVENTION OF 5 JULY 1890, AS AMENDED BY PROTOCOL OF 16 DECEMBER 1949;

-- INTEREST ON INVESTED AVAILABLE FUNDS;

-- SALE OF COPIES OF "INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS JOURNAL."

C. BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEARS 1975 AND 1976 WILL AMOUNT TO A MINIMUM OF 20 MILLION BF, DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:

-- STAFF SALARIES: 10.0 MILLION BF;

-- COST OF PRINTING "INTL. CUSTOMS JOURNAL": 8.8 MILLION BF;

-- MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES (LIGHTING, HEATING, OFFICE EXPENSES, COST OF DISPATCHING "INTL. CUSTOMS JOURNAL"): 1.2 MILLION BF.

THESE BUDGETS ARE INDICATIVE. THEY HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP BY MANAGEMENT OF IBPCT ON THE BASIS OF A PRODUCTION PROGRAM OF APPROXIMATELY 13,500 TARIFF PAGES PER YEAR. THE CONVENTION OF 1890 AND THE AMENDING PROTOCOL OF 1949 EMPOWER MANAGEMENT TO DRAW UP THE BUDGET WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE FINANCIAL MEANS PLACED AT ITS DISPOSAL. BUDGETS ARE THEREFORE NOT SUBMITTED TO APPROVAL OF MEMBER-STATES.

2. IBPCT NOTE ADDES THAT ALL MEMBER-STATES ARE ASKED TO AGREE TO PROPOSED INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTIONS OF 30 PERCENT BASED ON THOSE IN FORCE 1 APRIL 1965. THUS THE RELATIVE SHARE FOR EACH MEMBER-STATE IN FINANCING THE IBPCT BUDGET WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

3. IBPCT HAS TOLD US THAT THEY ARE DROPPING IDEA OF INDEXING FUTURE SUBSCRIPTION INCREASES (REFTEL A, PARA 3) BECAUSE SEVERAL COUNTRIES INDICATED THEY WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY ACCEPTING THAT PROCUDURE.

4. GREATER DETAIL ON BUDGET INCOME AND EXPENSES APPEARS IN IBPCT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1973/1974, ALREADY AVAILABLE TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES. EMBASSY IS POUCHING RELEVANT PORTIONS ONCE AGAIN UNDER COVER OF AN AIRGRAM. PERSONNEL DATE WAS PROVIDED IN REFAIR C. WE THUS REGARD REFAIR E REQUEST AS FULFILLED CONCERNING IBPCT.

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5. IN ADDITION, WE HOPE DEPARTMENT CAN NOW RESPOND TO IBPCT REQUEST FOR SUBSCRIPTION INCREASE. FIRESTONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRUSSE02615
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750104-0018
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750319/aaaaarat.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 19483, 75 STATE 58547, 75 BRUSSELS A-53, 75 3/14/75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <01 MAR 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL BUREAU FOR THE PUBLICATION OF CUSTOMS TARIFFS
TAGS: ETRD, BE, US, INT CUSTOMS TARIFF BUREAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006